Regiment raising policy

†668. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy Government adopts for raising a regiment;

(b) whether there was any proposal or it was ever considered to raise Kalinga or Paika Regiment; and

(c) if so, the status thereof at present?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The post-Independence policy of the Government is not to raise any new regiment on the basis of a particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indians have representation. There is no proposal to raise a Kalinga or Paika regiment in the Indian Army .

Reduction of strength of officers and jawans due to technology

†669. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce strength of officers and jawans due to more and more use of modern technique and equipments in the military;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether military officers and experts have been consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the final decision taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY):(a) to (d) There is no proposal to reduce the numerical strength of the Indian Army. Modern technology and equipment are, however, being inducted as part of the perspective plans of the Army to optimize its potential.

Shortage of army officers

†670. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of army officers in the Army;

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to encourage service personnel to serve in Military, keeping in view the fact that qualified persons are getting handsome salaries in civil services;

(c) whether the initial inspiration and financial incentives to the youths related with the N.C.C., Territorial Army and the other armies would help in reducing the shortage in the army and whether Government is considering this proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Presently, there is a shortage of 11153 officers in the Army, mainly in the ranks of Lt. Colonel and below. Several steps have been undertaken by the Army to make the career in the Services attractive and to fill up the vacant posts. These measures are aimed at increasing promotional prospects and enhancing the satisfaction levels.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.